checking of sympathizers who have given shelter to the militants in the past and militants released on bail from jail etc.

Smuggling of narcotics

†2366. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that smuggling of narcotics in the country is constantly rising and Delhi is being used as a hub for smuggling of narcotics by the smugglers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of persons consuming cocaine is constantly rising in Delhi and its consumption is around 15 kilogram;

(c) if so, whether Government would enact a stringent law to prevent the smuggling of narcotics and to prevent the people from drug addiction;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Seizures and intelligence inputs do not suggest that the smuggling of narcotics in the country has been constantly increasing. The reports, however, indicate that Delhi is an important transit point for trafficking of Heroin of South West Asian Origin. Cocaine and Ecstacy in very small quantities are also reportedly abused as party drugs in Delhi but no trend has been noticed that it is on the rise.

(c) to (e) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 having stringent provisions for dealing with drug related offences is already in place. This Act is a comprehensive Act and provides for deterrent punishment including imprisonment up to 20 years for offences committed under this Act. The Act also provides for forfeiture of property derived from illicit drug trafficking.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.